

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bicycle frame, comprising:
  - a main frame portion;
  - an articulating frame portion comprising:
    - a pair of lower arms having a forward end and a rearward end, said forward ends being pivotally connected to said main frame portion at a first pivot axis;
    - a pair of upper arms having a lower end and an upper end, said lower ends being pivotally connected near said rearward ends of said lower arms at a second pivot axis, one of said rearward ends of said lower arms and said lower ends of said upper arms defining a hub axis;
    - a link pivotally connected to said upper ends of said upper arms at a third pivot axis and pivotally connected to said main frame portion at a fourth pivot axis; and
    - a shock absorber pivotally connected to one of said main frame portion and said link at a fifth pivot axis and pivotally connected to said articulating frame portion at a sixth pivot axis, said sixth pivot axis being located near said hub axis.
2. The bicycle frame of Claim 1, wherein said main frame portion additionally comprises a seat tube, said first pivot axis and said fourth pivot axis one of intersecting and being located adjacent said seat tube.
3. The bicycle frame of Claim 1, said articulating frame portion additionally comprising a bracket for mounting a rear brake assembly, said sixth pivot axis being located on said bracket.
4. The bicycle frame of Claim 1, wherein said fourth pivot axis and said fifth pivot axis are at least proximate one another.
5. The bicycle frame of Claim 1, said main frame additionally comprising a bottom bracket shell defining a crank axis, wherein said first pivot axis is above said crank axis.
6. The bicycle frame of Claim 1, wherein said lower arms define a first length between said first pivot axis and second pivot axis and said link defines a second length

between said third pivot axis and said fourth pivot axis, said second length being less than said first length.

7. The bicycle frame of Claim 6, wherein said second length is less than one half of said first length.

8. The bicycle frame of Claim 6, wherein said second length is less than one third of said first length.

9. The bicycle frame of Claim 1, wherein said lower arms, said upper arms, said link and said main frame portion define a perimeter in a vertical plane, said shock absorber comprising a main shock body, said main shock body being positioned substantially within said perimeter.

10. A bicycle frame, comprising:

a main frame portion comprising a top tube, a seat tube and a down tube arranged in a generally triangular arrangement defining a generally triangular space therebetween, a first water bottle mount defined on said seat tube and facing said space, said first mount sized and shaped to permit a first water bottle holder to be secured to said seat tube at said first mount and a second water bottle mount defined on said down tube and facing said space, said second mount sized and shaped to permit a second water bottle holder to be secured to said down tube at said second mount;

an articulating frame portion comprising a pair of lower arms having a forward end and a rearward end, a pair of upper arms having a lower end and an upper end, and a link, said forward ends of said lower arms being pivotally connected to said main frame, said lower ends of said upper arms being pivotally connected near said rearward ends of said lower arms, said link being pivotally connected to said upper ends of said upper arms at a first end and pivotally connected to said main frame, a hub axis defined by one of said lower ends of said upper arms and said rearward ends of said lower arms; and

a shock absorber pivotally connected to one of said main frame and said link at a first end and pivotally connected to said articulating frame portion near said hub axis at a second end.

11. The bicycle frame of Claim 10, wherein said articulating frame portion additionally comprises a bracket for mounting a rear brake assembly, said pivotal connection between said shock absorber and said articulating frame portion being located on said bracket.

12. The bicycle frame of Claim 10, wherein said pivotal connection between said link and said main frame defines a first pivot axis and said pivotal connection between said shock absorber and said one of said main frame and said link defines a second pivot axis, said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis being at least proximate one another.

13. The bicycle frame of Claim 12, wherein said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis are coaxial.

14. A bicycle frame, comprising:

a main frame portion comprising a seat tube;

an upper mounting bracket connected to said seat tube;

a lower mounting bracket connected to said main frame;

an articulating frame portion comprising:

a pair of lower arms having a forward end and a rearward end, said forward ends being pivotally connected to said lower mounting bracket;

a pair of upper arms having a lower end and an upper end, said lower ends being pivotally connected near said rearward ends of said lower arms, one of said rearward ends of said lower arms and said lower ends of said upper arms defining a hub axis;

a link pivotally connected to said upper ends of said upper arms and pivotally connected to said upper mounting bracket; and

a shock absorber pivotally connected to one of said main frame portion and said link at a first end and pivotally connected to said articulating frame portion near said hub axis at a second end.

15. The bicycle frame of Claim 14, wherein said articulating frame portion additionally comprises a bracket for mounting a rear brake assembly, said pivotal connection between said shock absorber and said articulating frame portion being located on said bracket.

16. The bicycle frame of Claim 14, wherein said pivotal connection between said link and said upper mounting bracket defines a first pivot axis and said pivotal connection between said shock absorber and said one of said main frame portion and said link defines a second pivot axis, said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis being at least proximate one another.

17. The bicycle frame of Claim 16, wherein said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis are coaxial.

18. A bicycle frame, comprising:

a main frame portion;

an articulating frame portion comprising:

a pair of lower arms having a forward end and a rearward end, said forward ends being pivotally connected to said main frame portion;

a pair of upper arms having a lower end and an upper end, said lower ends being pivotally connected near said rearward ends of said lower arms, one of said rearward ends of said lower arms and said lower ends of said upper arms defining a hub axis;

a link pivotally connected to said upper ends of said upper arms and pivotally connected to said main frame portion; and

a shock absorber connected to said bicycle frame and being arranged to provide a force resisting movement of said articulating frame portion with respect to said main frame portion, a first end of said shock absorber being pivotally connected to said articulating frame portion near said hub axis.

19. The bicycle frame of Claim 18, wherein said pivotal connection between said first end of said shock absorber and said articulating frame portion is within about five inches of said hub axis.

20. The bicycle frame of Claim 18, wherein said pivotal connection between said first end of said shock absorber and said articulating frame portion is behind a generally vertical plane passing through said hub axis.